

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1 – 34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) A surface cleaning apparatus, comprising:

- a) a body having a forward compartment and rear compartment;
- b) an elongate rotatable brush extending across the forward compartment;
- c) an electric motor in the rear compartment;
- d) a belt connecting the motor and rotatable brush; and
- e) a cleaning strip assembly pivotably mounted on an underside of the body.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the cleaning strip assembly comprises an elongate support member and a flexible strip extending radially from the support member along substantially the entire length of the elongate support member.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the cleaning strip assembly further comprises at least one tab oriented to contact the surface being cleaned during cleaning, the contact of the at least one tab with the surface being cleaned capable of causing the cleaning strip assembly to pivot between a cleaning position and an elevated position.

38. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the at least one tab causes flexible tabs cause the cleaning strip assembly to pivot into a cleaning position when the surface cleaning apparatus moves in a first direction.

39. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the at least one tab causes flexible tabs cause the cleaning strip assembly to pivot into an elevated position when the surface cleaning apparatus moves in a second direction.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, further comprising an intermediate compartment defined by a wall between the forward compartment and the intermediate compartment, a wall between the intermediate compartment and the rear compartment, and side walls.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein one side wall is removable to facilitate removal of debris.

42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the removable side wall includes a cover.

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the belt is enclosed within a tunnel that passes through the intermediate compartment.

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein one side wall is removable to facilitate removal of debris and the tunnel is arranged at a side remote from the removable side wall.

45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments is inclined rearwardly.

46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the wall between the intermediate and rear compartments seals the rear compartment from the intermediate compartment.

47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein a front part of the forward compartment is movable to expose bristles on the elongate rotatable brush at the front part of the forward compartment.

48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the rear compartment is provided with ground-engaging wheels.

49. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, further comprising a handle rotatable about an axial direction of the handle to facilitate steering of the apparatus.

50. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the handle is further pivotable about an axis transverse to the axial direction of the handle.

51. (Previously Presented) A surface cleaning apparatus comprising:
a housing;
an elongate brush arrangement mounted so as to be rotatable about a longitudinal axis thereof and extending across the housing for contacting a surface to be cleaned;
a substantially continuous surface cleaning strip extending across an underside of the housing; and
movement responsive means including friction engaging means adapted to engage the surface to be cleaned and movable in opposing first and second directions in response to movement of the apparatus in opposing first and second directions relative to the surface to be cleaned, movement of the friction engaging means being transmitted to the cleaning strip,
wherein movement of the apparatus in the first direction causes the cleaning strip to adopt a first orientation relative to the housing such that in use a substantially continuous edge of the cleaning strip contacts the surface to be cleaned, and movement of the apparatus in the second direction causes the cleaning strip to adopt a second orientation relative to the housing so as to raise the cleaning strip clear of the surface to be cleaned.

52. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein the cleaning strip is mounted on a support which is movable between first and second positions by the movement responsive means in response to movement of the surface cleaning apparatus.

53 – 55. (Canceled)

56. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein the cleaning strip and the friction engaging means are mounted on an elongate member which is pivotably mounted relative to the housing of the apparatus, whereby contact between the friction engaging means and the surface to be cleaned causes the elongate member to pivot such that the cleaning strip adopts one of the first and second orientations.

57. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the cleaning strip and the friction engaging means project substantially radially from the elongate member.

58. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 57, wherein the cleaning strip and the friction engaging means extend at different angles relative to each other.

59. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 58, wherein an included angle between the cleaning strip and the friction engaging means is substantially 45 degrees.

60. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the friction engaging means comprises a tab extending from the elongate member.

61. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the elongate member comprises a flexible material.

62. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the cleaning strip and the friction engaging means are formed integrally with the elongate member.

63. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the elongate member comprises a recessed groove and the cleaning strip comprises a projection of complementary configuration adapted to retain the cleaning strip in the recessed groove.

64. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 63, wherein the recessed groove and the projection are substantially T-shaped.

65. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein the cleaning strip is configured to extend towards the surface to be cleaned by 2.5 to 8 mm.

66. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 65, wherein the cleaning strip is adapted to extend by substantially 4.5 mm.

67. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 51, further comprising means for inhibiting the movement of the cleaning strip in the longitudinal direction thereof.

68. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 67, wherein the movement inhibiting means is movable to allow replacement of the cleaning strip.

69. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 67, wherein the movement inhibiting means is removable to allow replacement of the cleaning strip.

70. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein the cleaning strip comprises a flexible material.

71. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein the friction engaging means comprises a flexible material.

72. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 51, further comprising a motor provided within the housing for rotating the brush arrangement.

73. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 72, further comprising a battery within the housing for energizing the motor.

74. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 73, wherein the battery is rechargeable.

75. (Previously Presented) A surface cleaning apparatus comprising:

a housing;
an elongate rotatable brush arrangement extending across the housing;
a substantially continuous surface cleaning strip extending across an underside of the housing; and

at least one surface engagement structure in operative communication with the surface cleaning strip, the surface engagement structure being movable in two opposing directions in response to movement of the surface cleaning apparatus,

wherein movement of the surface engagement structure in a cleaning direction causes the cleaning strip to adopt a cleaning orientation relative to the housing such that in use a substantially continuous edge of the cleaning strip contacts the surface to be cleaned, and wherein movement of the surface engagement structure in a direction opposite to the cleaning direction causes the cleaning strip to adopt an orientation relative to the housing so as to raise the cleaning strip clear of the surface to be cleaned.

76. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 75, wherein the cleaning strip is mounted on a support which is movable in response to movement of the surface engagement structure.

77. (Canceled)

78. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 75, wherein the cleaning strip and the surface engagement structure are mounted on an elongate member which is pivotably mounted relative to the housing of the apparatus, whereby movement of the surface engagement structure causes the elongate member to pivot such that the cleaning strip adopts one of the cleaning orientation or the raised orientation.

79. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 78, wherein the cleaning strip and the surface engagement structure project substantially radially from the elongate member.

80. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 79, wherein the cleaning strip and the surface engagement structure extend at different angles relative to each other.

81. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein an included angle between the cleaning strip and the surface engagement structure is substantially 45 degrees.

82. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 78, wherein the surface engagement structure comprises a tab extending from the elongate member.

83. (Previously Presented) A surface cleaning apparatus, comprising:

- a) a body having a forward compartment and rear compartment;
- b) an elongate rotatable brush extending across the forward compartment;
- c) a belt connecting an electric motor to the rotatable brush; and
- d) a cleaning strip assembly pivotably mounted on an underside of the body.

84. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 83, wherein the cleaning strip assembly comprises an elongate support member and a flexible strip extending radially from the support member.

85. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 84, wherein the flexible strip extends radially from the support member along substantially the entire length of the elongate support member.

86. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 84, wherein the elongate support member extends along substantially the entire length of the body.

87. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 83, wherein the cleaning strip assembly further comprises at least one tab oriented to contact the surface being cleaned during cleaning.

88. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 83, wherein the at least one tab is oriented so that contact of the at least one tab with the surface being cleaned is capable of causing the cleaning strip assembly to pivot between a cleaning position and an elevated position.

89. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 83, further comprising an intermediate compartment defined by a wall between the forward compartment and the intermediate compartment, a wall between the intermediate compartment and the rear compartment, and side walls.

90. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 89, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments is inclined rearwardly.

91. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 89, wherein the wall between the intermediate and rear compartments seals the rear compartment from the intermediate compartment.

92. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 83, wherein a front part of the forward compartment is movable to expose bristles on the elongate rotatable brush at the front part of the forward compartment.

93. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 83, wherein the forward compartment further comprises an opening in a lower surface thereof, and wherein a lower front region of the body is chamfered so that bristles of the elongate brush protrude from the body in the region of the chamfer such that, when the apparatus is inclined relative to a surface to be cleaned, contact between the bristles and the surface to be cleaned is increased.